

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2002



**Colington Cut Mitigation Site
Dare County
TIP No. B-2024**



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SUMMARY

The Colington Creek and Cut Mitigation Sites are located in Dare County. Originally planted in 1995, both sites were designed as mitigation for marsh wetland impacts associated with bridge project B-2024. The Colington Creek site, having been deemed a success, was closed in 1999. Seventh year vegetation monitoring at the Colington Cut site is presented in this report.

In response to mowing that had been found on the site in 2000, “Do Not Mow” signs were posted in January 2002. Mowing of the Colington Cut site has not reoccurred since the installation of the “Do Not Mow” signs.

After seven years of monitoring, visual observation of the Colington Cut site shows an aerial coverage of 95% with 75% survival rate; these results exceed the minimum 50% area coverage and 50% survival rate required.

NCDOT recommends discontinuing monitoring of the site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

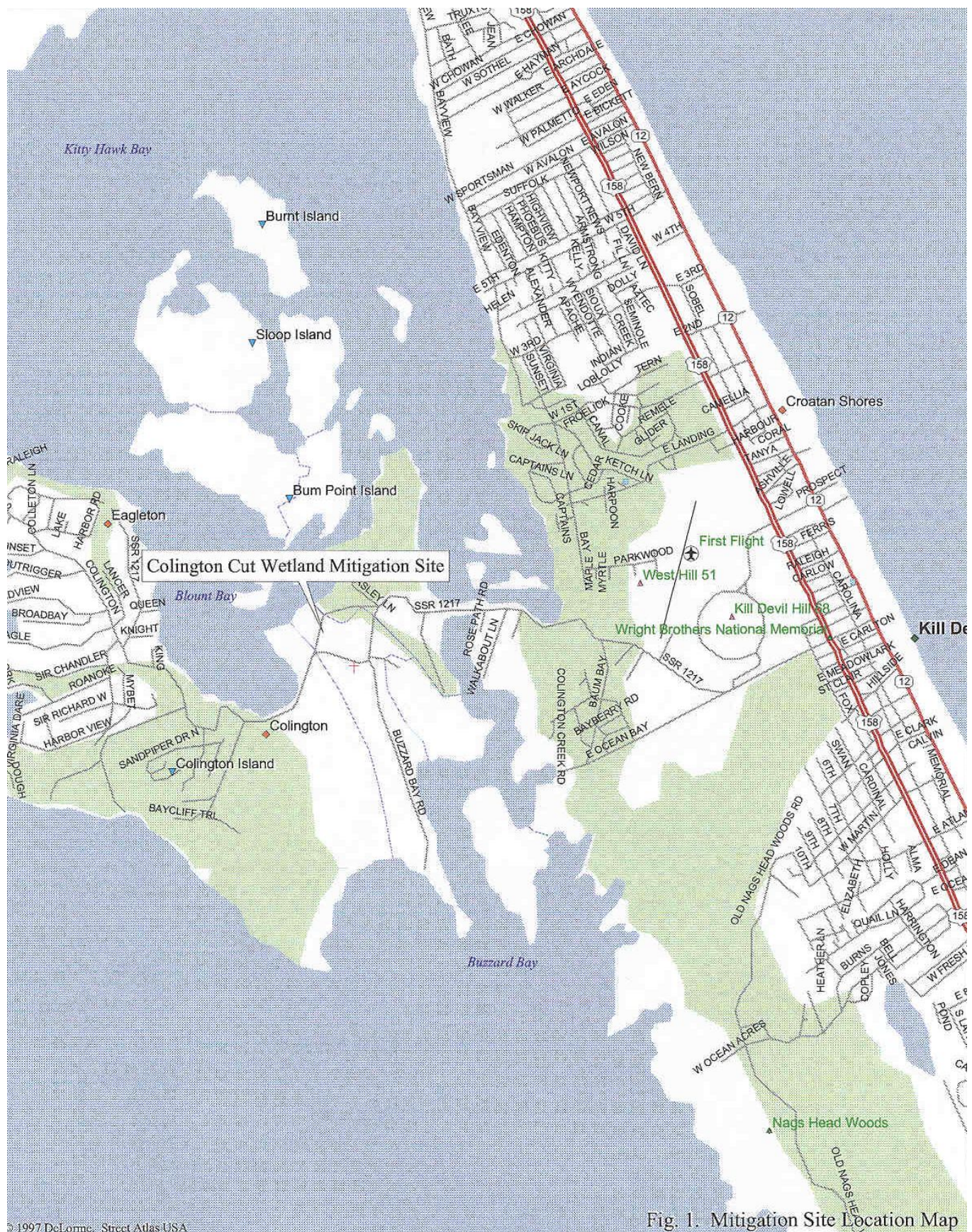
The Colington Cut and Creek Mitigation sites are located at Bridges No. 5 and 6 along SR 1217 in Dare County (Figure 1). The sites consist of approximately 1.27 acres of mitigation for marsh wetland impacts associated with project B-2024.

1.2 Purpose

In order for a mitigation site to be considered successful, a site must meet success criteria in both hydrology and vegetation. This report details the vegetation monitoring in 2002 at the Colington Cut Mitigation Site. The Colington Creek site was previously closed out on October 15, 1999, having met vegetation success. Hydrologic monitoring was not required for either site.

1.3 Project History

July 1995	Site planted
August 1995	Vegetation Monitoring (1 month)
October 1996	Vegetation Monitoring (1 year)
September 1997	Vegetation Monitoring (2 year)
August 1998	Vegetation Monitoring (3 year)
June 1999	Site treated for Phragmites
October 1999	Vegetation Monitoring (4 year)
October 2000	Site treated for Phragmites
October 2000	Vegetation Monitoring (5 year)
April 2001	Site treated for Phragmites
August 2001	Vegetation Monitoring (6 year)
October 2002	Vegetation Monitoring (7 year)



2.0 VEGETATION

2.1 Success Criteria

Success Criteria states that there must be a 50% survival rate of planted species and 50% aerial coverage for at least three consecutive years.

2.2 Description of Species

The following marsh grass species were planted in the Wetland Restoration Area:

Juncus roemerianus, Black Needle Rush
Brackish Marsh on-site (creating approx. 0.50 acres)

2.3 Results of Vegetation Monitoring

Site (ON SITE)	<i>Juncus roemerianus</i>	<i>Scirpus</i> sp.	Other	% Coverage (7 year)
C. Cut	60 %	25 %	10 %	95 %

Site Notes: Site was planted with *Juncus roemerianus* in July 1995. The site has been treated numerous times for phragmites. Species noted include: smartweed, *Panicum* sp., goldenrod, phragmites, *Sesbania* sp., *Spartina patens*, *Spartina alterniflora*, and *Aster* sp.

A portion of the Colington Cut site was mowed in 2000. Both the telephone company and the power company were contacted about the mowing but denied responsibility. NCDOT's Division Roadside Environmental Unit as well as NCDOT's Division and County Maintenance Offices were also contacted. There is evidence that on one occasion NCDOT County Maintenance did some selective clearing on site at the request of local citizens. "Do Not Mow" signs were posted in January 2002 (see photos). Mowing of the Colington Cut site has not reoccurred since the installation of the "Do Not Mow" signs.

2.4 Conclusions

There were approximately 1.27 acres of marsh planted both on site and off site. There were no plots established on either site. By visual observation the

Colington Cut site had an aerial coverage of 95% with 85% survival rate, exceeding the minimum 50% aerial coverage and 50% survival rate.

3.0 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

NCDOT and CAMA personnel met onsite October 2002 to discuss if Colington Cut has met success criteria. CAMA questioned if any phragmites treatment had occurred since October 2000. NCDOT Division personnel has records that show the site was treated for phragmites April 30, 2001. CAMA said it would discuss the matter internally to see if the site has met success criteria.

NCDOT proposes to discontinue monitoring at the Colington Cut Mitigation Site.

APPENDIX A

SITE PHOTOS

Colington Cut



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6